

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-05 NEAE-00 OMB-01

ACDA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 AF-08 AID-05 CU-04

SCCT-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 SCA-01

OPR-02 SY-05 /137 W

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O R 151443Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8655

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY LE

SUBJ: JULY 15 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT PLANS TO IMPLEMENT ARAB
LEAGUE RESOLUTIONS

1. SYRIAN MEDIA JULY 15 STRESSED AL SEC GEN RIAD'S PLANS
TO IMPLEMENT RECENTLY ADOPTED COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. PRESS
BANNERED: "CONTACTS UNDER WAY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AL
RESES. TO SOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS. RIAD -- 'ESSENTIAL STEP
DEMANDS HOLDING OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
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CEASEFIRE.' AL SEC GEN STRESSES IMPOSSIBILITY OF MILITARY

VICTORY AND CALLS FOR CONTINUATION OF EFFORTS TO REACH POLITICAL SOLUTION." IN STATEMENT RIAD EXPLAINED THAT HIS POLITICAL COUNSELOR, HASAN SABRI AL-KHULI, RETURNING TO LEBANON TO PREPARE GROUNDWORK FOR POLITICAL TALKS. RIAD ASSERTED THAT LEBANESE CIVIL WAR UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE VICTOR AND VANGUISHED, THUS COULD DRAG ON FOR YEARS; HENCE NEED FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION. MEDIA CITED NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT FONMINS OF BAHRAIN, KUWAIT AND TUNISIA HAD EXPRESSED READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH RIAD TO ARRANGE IMPLEMENTATION OF AL RESES.

2. MEDIA CLAIMED THAT RELATIVE CLAMNESS PREVAILED OVER LEBANON YESTERDAY, WITH DECREASING NUMBER OF SPORADIC CLASHES.

3. PRESS REPORTED THAT SYRIAN TEACHERS' UNION HAD SENT CABLE TO ALL OTHER ARAB TEACHERS' UNIONS EXPLAINING SYRIAN POSITION TOWARD LEBANON. ARTICLE CAPTIONED: "WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON IS MAJOR PLOT AGAINST OUR ARAB NATION. SYRO-PALESTINIAN UNITY OF STRUGGLE IS STRATEGIC DEMAND, NOT TACTICAL MATTER. PALESTINIAN CAUSE IS AXIS OF OUR STRUGGLE BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY, AND SYRIA'S ARMY IS PALESTINE'S ARMY."

4. PRESS HAS BEEN REPORTING PROGRESS OF BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBERS AROUND EUROPE AND PARTS OF AFRICA AND ME PAST FEW DAYS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, GEORGE SADDIQNI DEFENDED SYRIAN POLICY IN LEBANON TO ROMAN AUDIENCES WHILE FADEL AL-ANSARI AND AHMAD DIAB MET IN BONN WITH GERMAN POLITICIANS AND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE TO DENY ALLEGATIONS THAT SYRIAN AIR FORCE HAD ATTACKED PALESTINIAN CAMPS AND LEBANESE CITIES.

5. PRESS REPORTED THAT LATEST ISSUE OF PLA MAGAZINE, VOICE OF PALESTINE, PUBLISHED BLISTERING ATTACK AGAINST FATAH FOR ATTEMPTING TO "LIQUIDATE" PLA THROUGH DETAINING AND KILLING ITS OFFICERS. MEDIA HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT PRO-IRAQI POLITICAL LEADER IN BAALBEK, SAADUN KANAAN, HAS WITHDRAWN FROM IRAQI ORGANIZATION HE BELONGED TO AND CRITICIZED ITS TACTICS WHICH PROMOTED LEBANESE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFESSIONAL STRIFE.

6. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST PRAISED KUWAITI AL-RAI'S ASSERTION THAT RESUMPTION OF SYRO-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE REMAINS KEY TO BEGINNING OF SOLUTION OF LEBANESE CRISIS. HE CLAIMED THAT VISIT OF PLO OFFICIAL HANI HASSAN TO SYRIA REPRESENTING ARAFAT HAD FAILED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BECAUSE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY OTHER PLO LEADERS AT SAME TIME UNDERMINED

MISSION. HE WELCOMED VISIT FROM ARAFAT, BUT ADDED THAT AS NECESSARY FIRST STEP MEDIA MUST REFRAIN FROM ITS ATTACKS AGAINST SYRIA.

7. COMMENT: LITMUS TEST OF PALESTINIAN GOOD INTENTIONS FOR RESTORING MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE TO SYRO-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS, APPARENTLY FROM DAMASCUS VIEWPOINT, CESSATION OF HIGHLY INFLAMMATORY PROPAGANDA ATTACKS AGAINST SYRIAN ACTIONS IN LEBANON. MEDIA CONTINUE TO AVOW SYRIAN ACQUIESCENCE IN AL MEDIATION OF LEBANESE CRISIS.
MURPHY

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